

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SY-10 OPR-02 EUR-25

RSR-01 /117 W

----- 099007

Z O 032001 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1948

DIA WASHDC FLASH

INFO CINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5066

ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY

1. CHARGE CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER AT 1900 Z TO FIND OUT CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND, IF POSSIBLE, OBTAIN MORE PRECISION RE GOL' S REQUEST (SITREP 5). ABOUHAMAD REPLIED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAFEZ WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO RESIGN TONIGHT. HE WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO REASONS OTHER THAN THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES WAS THE ARMY'S CLASH WITH THE FEDAYEEN. HE EXPLAINED THAT RASHID KARAME AND KAMAL JUMBLATT HAD EXERTED CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON HAFEZ TO RESIGN. FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY APPOINT A NEW PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW, MAY 4, AND THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE A CIVILIAN. HE INDICATED THAT HAFEZ' S RESIGNATION WOULD OBVIOUSLY GREATLY COMPLICATE THINGS FOR FRANGIE.

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2. ABOUHAMAD SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE AND SUPPORTED REQUEST FROM PRESIDENCY FOR USG ASSISTANCE. HE WAS IMPRECISE ON WHAT FORM ASSISTANCE MIGHT TAKE BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA WAS LEBANON'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN AT THE MOMENT AND REFERRED TO CONVERSATION WITH SISCO LAST SEPTEMBER.

3. COMMENT: ABOUHAMAD WAS AT HIS HOME AND SOUNDED DISCOURAGED. HE FELT NOTHING DRAMATIC WOULD HAPPEN TONIGHT BUT WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT TOMORROW.
HOUGHTON

SECRET

NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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NEA
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